

**MEMORIAL RESOLUTION
UPON THE DEATH OF
HONORABLE WILLIAM W. LIPSITT**

William W. Lipsitt of Harrisburg passed away on August 1 2009 at the age of 92 at Community General Osteopathic Hospital. He would have been 93 the following day.

In Judge Lipsitt's passing, the Bar, the Bench and the Commonwealth have lost a most able and beloved Judge. His quintessential devotion to and for the law, the bench and the bar was widely known. The Judge was uniquely approachable and truly able to extend a genuine interest in the lawyers that practiced before him. Any lawyer that practiced before the Judge if asked would say that the Judge made the lawyer feel comfortable in the courtroom, remembered the lawyer's name and for some reason was able to offer a tidbit about the lawyer to him or her the next time and every time thereafter that they communicated in any setting. The Judge had a true and genuine love for lawyers.

The Judge was born in Harrisburg on August 2nd, 1916 to the late Henry and Emma Cohen Lipsitt and was the eldest of their 2 boys. He relished and often related the fact that he was raised from birth until 9 years old in Newport Pennsylvania at which time his parents decided they had to move to the City (Harrisburg) so he could study for his bar mitzvah.

He attended William Penn High School in Harrisburg. He graduated from Harvard College in 1938 where he also played varsity football and from Harvard School of Law in 1941. He excelled in his studies. In honor of the Judge's long time request peppered by his renowned wit and comical flair, he regularly reminded his round-table colleagues that upon reading his memorial resolution at this memorial service, they must note that in addition to Harvard, he also attend Oxford University. Therefore, let it be so noted and remembered throughout time, the hallowed halls of this Dauphin County Courthouse and amongst the most esteemed Dauphin County Bar Association members that Judge Lipsitt did in fact attend Oxford University with great zeal and devotion.

Judge Lipsitt was admitted to practice before the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, Pennsylvania Superior Court and various Federal Courts. He was a member of the Dauphin County, Pennsylvania and American Bar Associations. He was a member of the law firms of Shelley, Reynolds and Lipsitt, later Reynolds and Lipsitt, and former Solicitor for the Sheriff of Dauphin County. He served as preceptor to many lawyers who are presently practicing or licensed in the Commonwealth.

In June 1965 Governor William Scranton appointed him a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Dauphin County. In November of 1965 he was elected to a full ten year term on the bench and was returned in a retention election in November 1975 for an additional ten year term. He also taught as an Adjunct Law Professor at Dickinson Law School. Although permitted, he chose not to seek a third term in 1985 because he would only have been able to serve approximately two of the ten years of the term to which he would have been elected.

During Judge Lipsitt's years on the bench, he "... conducted some of the most famous trials in Dauphin County history, including the infamous '666' lottery fix trial (which was made into a movie), the Jay Smith murder trial (which was recounted in a best-selling novel and TV movie), and early Three Mile Island litigation."

Upon his retirement in 1986, he continued to preside over cases throughout Pennsylvania as a Senior Judge until he retired for the second time in December 2002. At that time, the Judge co-founded with his step-son the firm of Miller Lipsitt LLC. The Judge would have spent more time with his new firm but after serving so ably on the bench for 37 cumulative years, at the young age of 85, he didn't seem too interested in the required billable hours necessary to survive in private practice.

Judge Lipsitt was a loyal and patriotic servant to his country. He served in the United States Army in World War II and the Korean War and fought in the European theatre for 44 months. He earned the rank of First Lieutenant, receiving the bronze star and the campaign medal.

Just like his enthusiastic and life long commitment to his high school, college, and law school alma matters, his commitment to the excellence of the law also endured throughout his lifetime. His ideals manifested themselves by his participation in groups and positions such as Beth El Temple, former President of the Keystone Area Council of Boy Scouts of America, National Jewish Committee on Scouting, Harrisburg Lodge # 12 B.P.O. Elks; Harrisburg VFW Post # 1086, American Legion, Jewish War Veterans Post # 97, Salem Lodge #26, B'nai B'rith, and past chairman of the Tri-County Welfare Council.

The Judge was a former member and president of the Harrisburg School Board, a former member of the board of Trustees of the Harrisburg Public Library, past president of the Harvard Club of Central Pennsylvania, a past secretary and treasurer for the Optimist Club of Harrisburg; past member of the Executive Committee, United Jewish Community of Harrisburg, a national delegate to the American Jewish Committee, a member of the Royal Arcanum, American Technion Society, Paxton Lodge # 798 F. & A.M., Harrisburg Consistory, Zembo Temple, National Sojourners, Tuesday Club of Harrisburg (and a founding member), Greater West Shore Area Chamber of Commerce, Pennsylvania Society of New York, Harrisburg Council Navy League of the U.S. and was former member of the Board of Managers of the Harrisburg Hospital.

As stated by the bench in 2006 upon the Judge's 90th birthday, throughout his legal career he earned and kept the esteem and respect of the bench, bar, and community for his legal scholarship, work ethic, vision, wit, gentility, and compassion; and was well known for his personal charm, marvelous sense of humor, love of literature, art, theatre, sports, and good conversation.

The Judge was a lifelong supporter of the Boy Scouts of America and the epitome of an Eagle Scout.

The Judge is survived by his wife, May Y. Lipsitt. They eloped in October 1972 when he was 55 years old and this was his first and only marriage. Not many in the current bar have any memory or knowledge of the Judge prior to his marriage but suffice to say he was a confirmed bachelor.

He is also survived by his four step sons, twelve grandchildren, his brother and sister-in-law, 2 nephews and 1 niece.

Therefore, be it resolved, that in the passing of William W Lipsitt, the bar, the community and his family will deeply miss the Judge who showed great love and devotion to those things in life that he cherished; the law, the arts, sports and his family.

And resolved further, that the members of the Dauphin County Bar Association, in meeting assembled, mourn the death of our esteemed colleague, William W Lipsitt, and tender our sympathy and condolences to his widow and family.

And resolved further, that copies of this Memorial Resolution be spread upon the records of the Dauphin County Courts and Dauphin County Bar Association, that the original copy be filed in the Office of the Prothonotary, and that the copies be transmitted to his widow and family.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

HONORABLE RICHARD A LEWIS, PJ

HONORABLE JEANNINE TURGEON

HONORABLE JOSEPH H. KLEINFELTER

HONORABLE SCOTT ARTHUR EVANS

HONORABLE TODD A. HOOVER

HONORABLE LAWRENCE F. CLARK, JR.

HONORABLE JOHN F. CHERRY

HONORABLE BRUCE F. BRATTON

HONORABLE WARREN G. MORGAN

HONORABLE CLARENCE C. MORRISON

HONORABLE WILLIAM CALDWELL

HONORABLE G. THOMAS MILLER

HONORABLE SYLVIA RAMBO

HONORABLE CHRISTOPHER CONNER

HONORABLE YVETTE KANE

HONORABLE JOHN JONES

HONORABLE ANDREW SMYSER

HONORABLE MARTIN CARLSON

HONORABLE LEROY S ZIMMERMAN

SMITH BART GEPHART

JAMES A MILLER

MARK T SILLIKER

MARK S SILVER

JAMES W ABRAHAM